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Reserve

BRIEF REPORT
OF THE OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK
March 3 - 11, 1945

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Reports indicate that the 1945 National 4-H Club Week was, by far, the most successful week so far held. It was observed by the 1,700,000 4-H members and 150,000 local volunteer leaders not only in every State of our Nation but also in Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. It was in truth a Week of Rededication. 4-H members everywhere seriously rededicated their "Heads, hearts, hands, and health to Victory." Their slogan "Dig in for Victory" took on special significance for each of them. People of every rural community paid tribute to the 4-H achievements of their own young people. Local newspapers devoted whole editions to the work of 4-H members and its importance to the welfare of the Nation. Local broadcasts took up the story. Town and country stores vied with each other in displaying effective 4-H exhibits in their windows. In Middlesex County, N. J., formal contests were held to determine the very best display. In Portland, Ore., where 4-H girls put on demonstrations in some of the leading store windows, extra policemen had to be called out to direct the traffic.

In some of the Southern States, 4-H stickers appeared on every hotel menu card. Some of the city stores developed striking posters. Then there was the one sent out for the second year by the Spool Cotton Co. Twenty thousand of these were distributed to local stores throughout the country. Posters sent out by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work were found in local post offices, countryside stations, town halls, and school-rooms. County and community 4-H meetings were held to listen to national broadcasts, to enlist and initiate new members, to inventory project work to date, and to call attention again to local 4-H achievements as well as plans for the future. Ministers announced the observance of the Week from their pulpits. In some churches, 4-H members participated in calling attention to the work of the 4-H Clubs. Superintendents of schools gave special endorsements. Many school assembly programs were conducted by 4-H members of the community. Movie houses ran popular 4-H films. Outstanding citizens gave testimonials to the values of 4-H work with "grass-roots" sincerity.

As to the national plans and procedures, developed to reinforce the observance of the Week in every State and county, much appreciation should be expressed to the members of the Federal Extension Office of Information who were continually on the job. Much appreciation should also be expressed to the staff members of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. They too were continually on the job!

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Now just a word about the origin of this week, for the benefit of new staff members of State club offices. Immediately after the cancellation of the 1942 National 4-H Camp, a search was begun for something to take its place as far as that could be possible. Mr. W. H. Palmer, Ohio State Club Leader, announced a State 4-H Mobilization Week the first week of April. This was followed by a 4-H proclamation by the Governor of Ohio. When the plan was explained, State club leaders throughout the country unanimously voted for and cooperated in the observance of a "National 4-H Mobilization Week." The story from then on is now widely known.

This year a brief resume from a national standpoint will suffice to give some of the high lights of this 4-H Club event that has done much at a crucial time of the club year to inspire 4-H Club members to greater endeavor; to add prestige to the work and thus influence more young people to join; and to educate the public as to the values of this unique educational program for young people between the ages of 10 and 21.

This year the week itself was unique in many respects. It was unique because the name was changed from National 4-H Mobilization Week to National 4-H Club Week in accordance with the suggestion that the term "mobilization" be dropped from all Government activities. However, the simple term "National 4-H Club Week" gained favor and strength in its implications.

Because of the adverse war news in December and early January when final plans for the week were under way, it seemed appropriate this year to refer to it also as a Week of Rededication. The challenge to 4-H members and to leaders was given by Director Wilson in his keynote message:

"This year the military services will take many 4-H Club members who, at the time of Pearl Harbor, had just begun their 4-H Club career. They were 15 then. They are 18 now. They are leaving only because their country needs them. They will depend upon you, their younger brothers and sisters and cousins and friends, to carry on. That extra pig you raise, the extra days you help your neighbor during harvest, the extra quarts you can from your Victory Garden, these are small items in themselves. But they add up to the fact that your slogan, 'Feed a fighter or more in '44,' became a reality of feeding more than 1 million soldiers for a full year.

"Although we're making progress in the war, it is not yet won. The lines of lonely white crosses are growing longer every day. The hospitals equipped with the beds and bandages you helped provide are filling up. The ambulances you bought with your war bonds of mercy are shuttling back and forth from front-line fire more often and with larger loads.

"Though winning the war is our number 1 job for 1945, I know you 4-H members and leaders are not overlooking the ideals our soldiers are fighting for--a home, a good neighborhood, a thriving community, a chance for a good education, and freedom to worship in one's own way. That's why Victory is everybody's business now. That's why 4-H Club members welcome every rural boy and girl who wants to join in the 4-H Victory program."

A transcription of this message was made and sent to the editors for use during the week all over the country.

The manual entitled "Observance of National 4-H Club Week" contained more helpful information than ever before and got to the field in sufficient time for effective use. All leaders were especially gratified that the late beloved President Roosevelt, in spite of his heavy responsibilities and cares, sent us his inspiring message--signed during the Yalta Conference and sent in the Presidential mail pouch across the seas back to the White House for our use.

This year the O.W.I. cooperated in a most effective way. In fact, it is believed that there was a considerable increase over the estimated 81,901,000 listeners of last year who heard the plugs for 4-H over commercial broadcasts. A list of the national networks carrying 4-H Club information has been sent to each State club leader. At the start of the week, Everett Mitchell, the Voice of the Dairy Farmer, gave a wonderfully fine talk on what 4-H means to country boys and girls and to the life of the Nation, followed by such star broadcasters as Ted Malone, John Charles Thomas, and William Shirer. Of course, especially welcomed was the cooperation of those responsible for such programs as the Breakfast Club, the Kraft Music Hall, the Firestone Hour, the National Barn Dance, the Country Journal, the Lone Ranger, and the Jack Armstrong Hour. However, the mimeographed list sent does not include all the national network radio programs paying tribute to 4-H Club work during this Week or the many local broadcasts in every State, due particularly to the efforts of State and county extension staffs.

In addition to the statements by the President and by Director M. L. Wilson, there have always been some statements by such prominent citizens as governors of States and presidents of universities. But this year, in addition, there were strong statements from many other distinguished men of affairs, endorsing 4-H Club work.

A few brief abstracts from some of these statements!

First, of course, the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who made the supreme sacrifice that others might live in peace and security: "This year the Nation again reviews with pride the war services of its 1,700,000 4-H Club members. Wherever you 4-H members live and work and share responsibilities, there is convincing evidence of your efforts in achieving your seven wartime goals."

Justice James F. Byrnes: "During the last quarter of a century I have followed with growing satisfaction the work of the 4-H Clubs."

Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury: "I believe thoroughly in the 4-H Clubs. As a farm paper publisher I gave them my enthusiastic support. My children were members when they were growing up on the farm in Dutchess County, N. Y. The clubs have done and continue to do a great educational and patriotic service, and are among the fine constructive forces of our Nation."

Judge Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator: "The 1,700,000 4-H Club members of our rural counties are rendering a great service to their country in their contributions toward helping meet the food goals for 1945. I want them to know that we in the War Food Administration appreciate the tremendous amount of help they have given."

Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture: "Members of the Nation's 4-H Clubs have made significant contributions during each of the trying years of World War II. The Nation will continue to look to the members of the 4-H Clubs for the fine qualities of leadership in their communities throughout the war and in the days of reconstruction and peace."

Vice Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman, United States Maritime Commission: "4-H Club members know and value our way of life. They know that it is worth fighting for. We of the Maritime Commission and War Shipping Administration are proud of our association with them."

Maj. Gen. Edmund B. Gregory, The Quartermaster General, Army Service Forces: "Yours has been a major contribution to the comfort and safety of our fighting forces in all theaters of operations."

Roy F. Hendrickson, Deputy Director General, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration: "As a former 4-H Club member I am very proud of the boys and girls of rural America, not only for their help in the miracle of production which our farmers have achieved during the war but for the splendid example they are giving to the rural youth of war-torn Europe. Already 4-H Clubs have been started in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and other countries of northern Europe. Such clubs can help bring the blessings of peace to individual families and communities. Our warmest congratulations go to the 4-H Clubs of America for the high standard they have aimed at, reached, and surpassed."

A unique feature of National 4-H Club Week this year was the "4-H Goals for Victory Breakfast" made possible by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work.

More than 50 top Government officials, including President Harry S. Truman and Members of Congress, as well as leaders of agricultural, educational, and farm organizations, paid tribute to the wartime achievements since Pearl Harbor and the goals for 1945 of our 1,700,000 4-H Club members.

The 1945 goals of the 4-H'ers, announced at the breakfast by Thomas E. Wilson, Chairman of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, who presided, include: 200,000 more members and 20,000 more local leaders than in 1944; 50,000 more acres in 4-H victory gardens than the 326,000 acres cultivated in 1944; 40,000 more acres in food crops; 1,350,000 more chickens and turkeys and 55,000 more meat animals; nearly 2,000,000 more quarts of foods; 700,000 more home meals prepared according to dietary needs; and continued heavy production of milk, as well as collection of scrap and the purchase and sale of war bonds.

After the announcement of the 4-H goals, Ann Lee Tipton, of Maryland, and Donald Sullivan of New York, both outstanding club members, discussed the values of 4-H Club work in a most gratifying way.

President Truman, then Vice President, followed and sprung a surprise on many of those present by stating that as a young man he had the privilege of helping to organize the first 4-H Club in western Missouri. Continuing he said, "After listening to these young people, we need not worry about the future of the United States, because it is right here--it is in good hands."

Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, stated that when he looks at the last "H" in the 4-H pledge, which stands for Health, he thinks of the nearly 4-1/2 million American boys who did not pass when examined at the induction centers. One-third of those rejected, or 1,500,000 boys were turned down, not because of any organic trouble but presumably because of emotional maladjustment. General Hershey congratulated the 4-H Clubs on developing well-rounded, healthy individuals, and said that if they would extend their membership to 5 or 6 million, instead of 1,700,000, then 25 years from now we would not find so many men who could not pass our Army and Navy tests. He also asserted that there will never be a complete democracy as long as 20 to 30 percent of the people are unable to assume civic responsibility because of emotional instability.

Other speakers were Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture; Grover B. Hill, Assistant War Food Administrator; Director M. L. Wilson; Senator Arthur Capper, of Kansas; Frances P. Bolton and Clifford R. Hope, of the House of Representatives.

Joseph C. Grew, Acting Secretary of State, and Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, were among those who sent messages, which were read at the meeting. Incidentally, our good 4-H friend, Representative Frances P. Bolton, had Ann Tipton's talk included in the proceedings of the Congressional Record accompanied by a strong statement by Mrs. Bolton, regarding 4-H Club work, made on the floor of the House of Representatives. At the breakfast too, Mrs. Bolton gave a fine, inspiring talk in which she said: "4-H boys and girls know the joy that comes from work well done. They would often surprise us if we could read their thoughts, for they take up where we leave off. They come through us but not essentially of us. We are the bows and they are the arrows. It is for us to see that the arrows are made of strong wood, with sharp points, shooting straight. Remember that destiny may take them to places of responsibility far beyond what we may even dream. They possess a treasure chest filled with the precious things of life. It is for us to see that they make the best possible use of this inheritance."

Mr. J. J. McGuire, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, made one of the strongest statements on the importance of 4-H Club work. He said, in part: "The 4-H record of wholesome accomplishment has been outstanding, and indeed, that has been demonstrated visibly to us here by the splendid talks given by our young friends, Miss Ann Lee Tipton and Mr. Donald Sullivan, who represent the positive aspects of our Nation's future. But there is a negative side of the picture; one which all too frequently

confronts law enforcement. The termites eating at the heart of youth threaten to leave scars on the home front far more serious than those brought about by the impact of war. Your job and mine is to get down to the roots of crime. That is why Mr. Hoover considers the 4-H Clubs as our ally in the war on crime.

Had we reached into rural areas during the last war with adequate youth programs, we might have spared some of those caught in the backwash of the war who went on to become America's most notorious criminals. John Dillinger was a personable youngster on an Indiana farm. Young Alvin Karpis was busy stealing other youngsters' bicycles. The Barber boys in Oklahoma were having their first brush with the law, and down in the Cookson Hills, Baby-Face Nelson was being transformed from a juvenile offender into a vicious killer.

"While attention is diverted to the war, young people today are slipping into the habit of crime, and through adult carelessness and wanton neglect, we are indoctrinating a home-bred army of future criminals. Facts must be faced realistically. Right now the watch on your wrist ticks as a chronometer of crime; each 22 seconds recording a serious offense. Thirty-nine seconds after you sat down to breakfast in this room this morning a larceny was committed in the United States. Before 2 minutes passed one burglary occurred, and 60 seconds later an automobile was stolen--for car thefts are made at the rate of one every 3 minutes of the day and night. Crime is on the march -- an aggravated assault every 10 minutes, a robbery every 11 minutes, a rape every 49 minutes, and since we have been in this room at least one person has met death--for we have a homicide in the United States every 52 minutes. Of the murderers, 13 percent are youngsters under 21; 30 percent of the arsonists, 39 percent of the robbers, 55 percent of the burglars, and 65 percent of the car thieves are youngsters under 21. Out of each 100 there will be 70 who will go on committing crime.

"A more compelling challenge could not be made that is destined to alter the cause for which rich American blood is being shed daily on battlefronts. Is this how we have preserved the home front? Our answer depends largely on how well we lend our active help to youth groups across the land who have demonstrated objective ideals, such as the 4-H Clubs of the United States where loyalty and honest effort are goals to be attained by all its members. May the scope of your work ever expand and widen in its sphere of influence, and it is our hope that in your plans for building a strong youth for the future, you will not hesitate to call on the FBI whenever we may be of assistance."

Yes, the 1945 National 4-H Club Week was conducted not only in keeping with the purposes set up but outlined new promising patterns for the future!